

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A document storing system comprising:

folder retainer means for retaining a plurality of folders, each of the folders storing at least one document;

new document retainer means for retaining a new document;

a processor that executes program code for a candidate folder search process ~~device~~ for searching the plurality of folders to identify at least one candidate folder suitable for storing the new document among the plurality of folders, by comparing a feature of the new document with an average of features of the documents stored in at least one candidate folder among the plurality of folders, wherein the at least one candidate folder has documents more similar to the new document than other documents in the plurality of folders;

display means for in response to the candidate folder search process identifying the at least one candidate folder, displaying the at least one candidate folder identified by said candidate folder search ~~device~~ process; and

storing means for storing the new document into a selected folder selected by a user from among the at least one candidate folder displayed by said display means.

2. to 3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The document storing system according to claim 1, wherein prior to the searching of a plurality of folders, ~~said folder search device~~ the candidate folder search process judges a similarity degree representing a similarity between a feature of the new document and an average of features of the plurality of documents stored in each folder so that the judged similarity degree is used when a feature of the new document is compared with an average of features of the plurality of documents.

5. to 8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A document storing method of retaining a plurality of folders, each having at least one document, in a folder retaining memory in a document storing system, the method comprising the steps of:

searching a plurality of folders, when a new document is retained, in the folder retaining memory to identify at least one candidate folder suitable for storing the new document among the plurality of folders, by comparing a feature of the new document with an average of features of documents stored in at least one candidate folder among the plurality of folders, wherein the at least one candidate folder has documents more similar to the new document than other documents in the plurality of folders;

in response to identifying the at least one candidate folder in the search step, displaying the at least one candidate folder identified [[by]] ~~in said candidate folder search device~~ searching step; and

storing the new document into a selected folder selected by a user from among the displayed at least one candidate folder.

10. (Previously Presented) The document storing method according to Claim 9, the step of searching further comprising the steps of:

judging a similarity degree representing a similarity between a feature of the new document to be stored and an average of features of a plurality of sets of document information of the plurality of documents stored in each folder; and

storing the plurality of folders in accordance with the judged similarity degree.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium storing a program for executing a method of retaining a plurality of folders, each having at least one document, in a folder retaining memory in a document storing system, the method comprising the steps of:

searching a plurality of folders to identify at least one candidate folder suitable for storing the new document among the plurality of folders, by comparing a feature of the new document with an average of features of documents stored in at least one candidate folder among the plurality of folders, wherein the at least one candidate folder has documents more similar to the new document than other documents in the plurality of folders;

in response to identifying the at least one candidate folder in the searching step, displaying the at least one candidate folder identified [[by]] in said ~~candidate folder~~ ~~search device~~ searching step; and

storing the new document into a selected folder selected by a user  
from among the displayed at least one candidate folder.

13. (Previously Presented) The computer readable storage medium according to claim 12, wherein said step of selecting further comprises the steps of:  
judging a similarity degree representing a similarity between a feature of the new document to be stored and an average of features of a plurality of sets of document information of a plurality of documents stored in each folder; and  
storing the plurality of folders in accordance with the similarity judged in said judging step.

14. to 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The document storing system according to claim 1, further comprising means for updating the feature of the folder in response to saving [[of]] the new document in the candidate folder.

18. (Previously Presented) The document storing system according to claim 1, wherein the document includes vector data.

19. (Currently Amended) The document storing system according to claim 1, wherein the candidate folder has a high-level rank as determined by the result of the search performed by the candidate folder search process said folder searcher.

20. (Previously Presented) The document storing system according to claim 1, wherein said display means displays a label which is set in advance to indicate the candidate folder.

21. (Previously Presented) The document storing system according to claim 1, wherein the document includes text data.

22. (Previously Presented) The document storing system according to claim 1, further comprising means for causing the selected candidate folder to save the new document.

23. (Currently Amended) The document storing method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of updating the feature of the folder in response to saving [[of]] the new document in the candidate folder.

24. (Previously Presented) The document storing method according to claim 9, wherein the document includes vector data.

25. (Previously Presented) The document storing method according to claim 9, wherein the candidate folder has a high-level rank as determined by the results of the search.

26. (Previously Presented) The document storing method according to claim 9, wherein said displaying includes displaying a label which is set in advance to indicate the candidate folder.

27. (Previously Presented) The document storing method according to claim 9, wherein the document comprises text data.

28. (Previously Presented) The document storing method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of causing the selected candidate folder to save the new document.

29. (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 12, wherein the steps further comprise the step of updating the feature of the folder in response to saving [[of]] the new document in the candidate folder.

30. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 12, wherein the document includes vector data.

31. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 12, wherein the candidate folder has a high-level rank as determined by the result of the search.

32. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 12, wherein said displaying includes displaying a label which is set in advance to indicate the candidate folder.

33. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 12, wherein the document comprises text data.

34. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 12, wherein said steps further comprise the step of causing the selected candidate folder to save the new document.

35. (Currently Amended) The document storing system according to claim 4, further comprising notifying means for notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder searched for by the candidate folder search process, ~~by said folder searcher~~ wherein said notifying means provides notification only of a predetermined number of folders which have a high rank of similarity order.

36. (Currently Amended) The document storing system according to claim 4, further comprising notifying means for notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder searched for by the candidate folder search process, ~~by said folder searcher~~ wherein the document is stored in at least one folder mentioned in the notification provided by said notifying means.

37. (Currently Amended) The document storing system according to claim 4, further comprising notifying means for notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder searched for by the candidate folder search process, by said folder searcher wherein said notifying means displays a label set in advance to the selected folder.

38. (Previously Presented) The document storing system according to claim 4, wherein the document includes text data.

39. (Previously Presented) The document storing method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder searched in said searching step wherein notification is provided only of a predetermined number of folders which have a high rank of similarity order.

40. (Previously Presented) The document storing method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder searched in said searching step wherein the document is stored in at least one folder mentioned in the notification provided in said notifying step.

41. (Previously Presented) The document storing method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder searched in said searching step wherein said notifying step includes displaying a label set in advance to the selected folder.



42. (Previously Presented) The document storing method according to claim 10, wherein the document includes text data.

43. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 13, further comprising the step of notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder searched in said searching step wherein notification is provided only of a predetermined number of folders which have a high rank of similarity order.

44. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 13 further comprising the step of notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder searched in said searching step wherein the document is stored in at least one folder mentioned in the notification provided in said notifying step.

45. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 13, further comprising the step of notifying a user of the at least one candidate folder searched in said searching step wherein said notifying step includes displaying a label set in advance to the selected folder.

46. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to claim 13, wherein the document includes text data.

47. to 70. (Cancelled)